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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,085	05/02/2001	Daryl Carvis Cromer	RPS920000109US1	7195

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, JENISE E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2131

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/847,085

Applicant(s)

CROMER ET AL.

Examiner

Jenise E. Jackson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pearce et al(6,484,308).

3. As per claims 1, 7, Pearce et al. discloses a method in a data processing system for maintaining security during booting of the data processing system(see col. 2, lines 5-10), during a boot process, interrogating a boot device(i.e. hard disk) for password information (see col. 2, lines 13-16); and in response to the boot device supplying password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device, booting the data processing system utilizing the boot device(see col. 3, lines 38-67), wherein the booting includes booting the data processing system utilizing the boot device without entry of any of the password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device by a human user(see col. 3, lines 38-67).

4. As per claims 2, 8, 13, Pearce discloses the password information of the boot device is used which is the manufacturer id, and drive serial number(see col. 3, lines 58-61).

5. As per claim 3, Pearce et al. discloses wherein interrogating the boot device for password information includes startup software interrogating the boot device(see col. 2, lines 13-16).

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6. As per claim 7, it is rejected under the same basis as claim 1(see above). Also, Pearce et al. discloses a memory coupled to the processor for communication (see col. 3, lines 23-37), memory includes startup software(see col. 3, lines 35-37).

7. As per claim 12, it is rejected under the same basis as claim 1. Further, claim 12, discloses wherein the startup software causes a data processing system to interrogate the boot device(see col. 2, lines 16-20, col. 3, lines 39-51).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4, 9, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearce et al. in view of Herzi et al(6,353,885).

10. As per claims 4, 9, 14, Pearce et al. discloses wherein interrogating the boot devices for password information(see col. 2, lines 16-20, col. 3, lines 38-62). Pearce et al. does not disclose interrogating a plurality of boot devices in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device. Herzi discloses interrogating a plurality of boot devices in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device(see col. 5, lines 33-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include interrogating a plurality of boot devices in sequence according to a priority order until password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device, the motivation is

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that Herzi's system is that bios level settings can typically be modified by accessing a BIOS set-up screen on the computer system(see col. 1, lines 51-52 of Herzi). A system with multi-user environment, in which a boot device order setting has been changed or modified by a first user, the boot device order being different from a second user(see col. 1, lines 54-58 of Herzi). Herzi system is an improved method for providing BIOS level user configuration in a multi-user computer environment (see col. 2, lines 3-5).

11. Claims 5-6, 10-11, 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearce et al.

12. As per claims 5, 10, 15, Pearce et al. discloses storing a password in non-volatile storage of the data processing system, inherent in Pearce because Pearce discloses a hard disk(see col. 2, lines 16-20); and determining that the boot device has supplied password information corresponding to a trusted boot device(see col. 5, lines 18-26). However, Pearce does not disclose hashing(i.e. masking) password information and comparing the hashed password information with the stored password. It is well-known in the art, to hash password information and compare the hash password information with the stored password, the motivation to hash password information is that hashing provides data integrity, because the hash-value is protected.

13. As per claim 6, Pearce et al. discloses obtaining the password by interrogating the boot device for the password information with a password-protected configuration routine(see col. 2, lines 5-20, col. 3, lines 38-62).

14. As per claim 11, Pearce et al. discloses the startup software including a password protected configuration routine that obtains the password by interrogating the boot device for the password information(see col. 2, lines 16-20).

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15. As per claim 16, limitations have already been addressed(see claim 3 and 6).

***Response to Amendment***

16. The Applicant states that Pearce does not disclose interrogating a boot device for password information, and in response to the boot device supplying password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device, boot the data processing system utilizing the boot device. The Examiner disagrees with the Applicant. Pearce discloses a hard drive(i.e. boot device) that has unique drive identification information(see col. 2, lines 13-16). Pearce discloses that the hard drives include unique drive identification number and a drive serial number (see col. 3, lines 59-61). The unique identification information is used to ensure that a drive different than the drive used to boot the computer system is not inserted into the computer system(see col. 3, lines 62-65). The Examiner asserts that the hard drive disclosed in Pearce is used to boot the system as disclosed above.

17. The Applicant states that Pearce nor Herzi discloses interrogating a plurality of boot devices in sequence according to a priority order until a boot device supplies password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot device. The Examiner disagrees with the Applicant. Herzi discloses the use of BIOS level password(see col. 5, lines 35-36). Herzi discloses that a user who has the BIOS level password can change the configuration settings, these includes the ability to choose where to boot from, the floppy disk, hard drive, CD-Rom(see col. 5, lines 33-48, 58-64).

***Final Action***

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jenise E. Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3791. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) alternate Friday's.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops.

May 13, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ayaz Sheikh' in a cursive style.

**AYAZ SHEIKH**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**